

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-11, and 15-16 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 3, 8, 12-14, and 17 being canceled, and Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, and 15 being amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are respectively requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 11-12, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,984,249) in view of Itoh (U.S. Patent No. 5,786,839). This rejection is moot with respect to the canceled claims and respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a crosspoint switch for selectively switching between a plurality (N) inputs to a plurality (M) outputs. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Long nor Itoh contain any disclosure of a crosspoint switch architecture in which a switch mean employs switchable amplifiers for connecting to each of the N inputs for allowing the selection of one of the inputs, via deactivating all but one of the switchable amplifiers, to drive one or more of the outputs. By doing so, the claimed invention allows for the one input to drive either one or all of the M outputs while maintaining the gain variation within a given specification.

Applicants note that the devices disclosed in Figures 3, 4, and 7 of Long (Applicants note that there is no Figure 3B in Long) are directed to a voting circuitry comprised of a plurality of multiplexers. With reference to Figure 7, voter circuit 304 is coupled to a plurality of multiplexers 308, 310, and 312 that are controlled by control input 138, wherein each of the control lines are distinguished from each other for purposes of tallying up the votes. Because the voting circuit 304 requires a distinguished signal from each of the inputs, the control mechanism cannot allow for outputting just one input. In fact, to do so would defeat the entire purpose of the voting machine.

Specifically, Long does not teach or suggest a switch means for selecting one of multiple inputs to be outputted to one or more of multiple outputs, using switchable amplifiers.

Itoh fails to make up for the deficiencies of Long. Specifically, Itoh is simply directed to a thermal head having groups of switching elements that can be selected. Itoh does not teach or suggest using multiplexers to make up a switch means, wherein switchable amplifiers are switchable to select from one of multiple inputs to output to one or more of the multiple outputs. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's combination of Long and Itoh. Long is directed to a voting circuitry whereas Itoh is directed to a thermal head for recording heat signatures; the Examiner points to no motivation why anyone skilled in the art would combine two references that are directed to two such different fields of art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 1, and all claims dependent thereupon, are not obvious over Long and Itoh.

The Examiner rejected Claims 4, 8, and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Long in view of Itoh and further in view of Elabd (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,534). This rejection is moot with respect to the canceled claims and respectfully traversed with respect to amended Claim 4, which depends from Claim 1.

As discussed above, neither Long nor Itoh contain any disclosure or suggestion of a switch means having a switchable amplifier coupled to multiple inputs, wherein one of the inputs can be selected for output to one or more of the outputs by controlling the switchable amplifiers. In fact, Elabd does not make any mention of switchable amplifiers. Rather, Elabd is directed to a switching system for switching multiple inputs to multiple outputs wherein each of the inputs are coupled to passive FET switches. As a result of using passive switches, one input cannot be connected (or switched) to more than one output at a time, unlike the invention claimed in Claim 4, which can connect one input to one or all of the outputs. In Elabd, if an input is switched to more than one

output, the outputs would be shorted together. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection and, in particular, the Examiner's statement that switchable amplifiers can be implemented into the system disclosed in Elabd. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to Claims 5-7, 9-10, and 15-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended these claims to incorporate the independent claims and all intervening claims, and respectfully submit that these claims are now in condition for allowance. Specifically, Applicants have rewritten Claims 5, 9, and 15 to incorporate the base claim, and submit that these claims, as well as any claims dependent thereupon, are in condition for allowance.

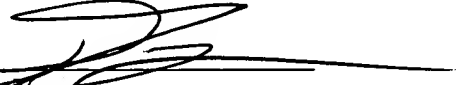
In view of the above, given that each of the presently pending claims in this application is in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 535352002200. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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